



OHIO DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC SAFETY
SAFETY • SERVICE • PROTECTION

- Bureau of Motor Vehicles
- Emergency Management Agency
- Emergency Medical Services
- Office of Criminal Justice Services
- Ohio Homeland Security
- Ohio State Highway Patrol

Mike DeWine, Governor
Thomas J. Stickrath, Director



Legal Services
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October 17, 2019

Matt Freund
MuckRock.com
Via email: 81119-97893101@requests.muckrock.com

Dear Mr. Freund,

You submitted a public records request in an email received on October 1, 2019 to the Ohio Department of Public Safety (DPS). Specifically, you requested "all Crash Reports reported in the state of Ohio from January 1sr, 2019 to September 30, 2019." You later clarified your request on October 4, 2019 to include a data download which includes "the name, address, phone number, and policy # that is included in the electronic crash reports."

The information you have requested exists in a computerized database, and there is no way to extract the information without significant reprogramming. According to the Ohio Supreme Court, if database reprogramming is required, such reprogramming would effectively force the public entity to create a new record. *See, State ex rel. Kerner v. State Teachers Retirement Bd.*, 82 Ohio St.3d 273, 275 (Ohio 1998). RC 149.43 does not require a public entity to create new records in order to comply with a public records request. For these reasons, DPS has no public records responsive to your request. Furthermore, this request also constitutes a complete duplication of records and Ohio public records cases have established that public records requests must be more narrowly tailored than a blanket request for all documents of a certain type. *State ex rel. Bristow v. Baxter*, 2018-Ohio-1973, ¶9-13; *See State ex rel. Glasgow v. Jones*, 119 Ohio St.3d 391, 2008-Ohio-4788, ¶ 19.

Please note that, on October 4, 2019, DPS provided you a link to <https://services.dps.ohio.gov/CrashOnline/CrashStatistics/Home> which will allow you to download all the crash reports which includes the specific information you are requesting.

Sincerely,

Alex S. Armitage
Associate Legal Counsel

Mission Statement

"to save lives, reduce injuries and economic loss, to administer Ohio's motor vehicle laws and to preserve the safety and well being of all citizens with the most cost-effective and service-oriented methods available."

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